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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year

1958



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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1958.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present, to you, my report for the year, 1958.

The vital statistics show some improvement on those recorded in 1957. The death rate is slightly lower than in previous years and is almost the same as the rate for England and Wales, while the infantile mortality rate is very much lower than in 1957 and slightly lower than the national average.

The birth rate, too, declined slightly and is lower than the corresponding rate for England and Wales.

The neonatal mortality accounted for 75% of the total infantile mortality and it is probable that, in our present state of knowledge, all the infant deaths were unavoidable. Only 4 infants died before reaching the age of 1 year.

Sonne Dysentery was the only notifiable infectious disease which was prevalent during the year and it gave rise to two outbreaks, one at the beginning and one in the last quarter of the year. The second outbreak appeared to run concurrently with an outbreak which caused similar symptoms but was not due to Sh. Sonnei. This occurrence is described more fully in Section F.

I should like to thank members of the Council for their interest in the work of the Health Department and for the consideration they have extended to me personally. I wish, also, to express my appreciation of the work of the Public Health Inspector and of assistance given by other departments of the Council.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR. M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.
Urban District of Newbiggin.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.	CATHERINE B. McGREGOR. M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer.	KATHLEEN DICK. M.B. B.S. B.Hy. D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector.	HAROLD S. WILSON. M.R.S.H. M.A.P.H.I.
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Residence of the Medical Officer.	36, Churchburn Drive, Morpeth.
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Residence of the Assistant Medical Officer.	21, Kendor Grove, Morpeth.
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SECTION A.

3.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There is no alteration to report, in the area, boundaries, or industries of the Urban District.

Area in Acres.....	1,841
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population.....	10,050
Rateable Value.....	£68,227
One Penny Rate Produces.....	£268
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958).....	3,055

VITAL STATISTICS.

(Figures for England and Wales are in brackets)

	<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>				
Legitimate.....	158	89	69	
Illegitimate.....	5	-	5	
	<u>163</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>74</u>	

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population... 16.22
 Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 0.99) 16.06 (17.1)

	<u>Still Births:</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....		5	2	3

Rate per 1,000 of the total (Live and Still) Births..... 29.76 (21.4)

DEATHS.

Total 119 Male 58 Female 61

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.....	11.85
Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor x Crude Death Rate 1.26) 14.93 (14.7)	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short list) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.....	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.....	NIL

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	24.54 (25.4)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	25.32
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	NIL

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>
Legitimate.....	3	2	1

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births. 18.987

The Regist General supplies the following:-

4.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Tuberculosis.	-	-
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease.	1	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections.	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasms. Stomach.	-	2
11. Malignant Neoplasms. Lung, Bronchus.	3	-
12. Malignant Neoplasms Breast.	-	2
13. Malignant Neoplasms Uterus.	-	4
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Diseases.	10	3
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	8	8
18. Coronary Disease, Angina.	7	2
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease.	1	1
20. Other Heart Diseases.	16	26
21. Other Circulatory Diseases.	-	-
22. Influenza.	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	-	-
24. Bronchitis.	3	-
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	-	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea.	1	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate.	1	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations.	-	1
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases.	3	5
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents.	1	2
34. All other Accidents.	3	2
35. Suicide.	-	-
36. Homicide and Operations of War.	-	-
	58	61

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

Total. Male. Female.

Legitimate.

4. 2 2

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH AT NEWBIGGIN.

	Total Number.	% of total Deaths.
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation.....	53	44.54
Malignant Neoplasns.....	24	20.17
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.....	16	13.45
	93	78.16

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1958.

Cause of Death	Under	1	1	2	3	Total	1	4	7	10	Total under 1 year
	1	to	to	to	to	under	to	to	to	to	
	day	6	2	3	4	1	3	6	9	12	
		dys	weeks			month	months	months	months	months	
Prematurity.....	2	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Congenital Abnormality.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL.....	2	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	4

SECTION B.

6.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are now available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
General Practitioner.	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	4	1
Industrial Medical Officer.	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	5	-
Medical Officer of Health.	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	94	341
Industrial Medical Officer.	Urine for pathogenic organisms.	1	3
Medical Officer of Health.	Blood for Complement Fixation Test.	-	2

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service in Newbiggin is provided by the Northumberland County Council ambulances stationed at Ashington. At North Seaton Colliery the Miners' Welfare Committee continues to run its own ambulance service, but any North Seaton resident not entitled to this service can obtain the use of a County Council Ambulance when necessary.

Nursing in the Home.

This service is administered and provided by the Northumberland County Council and nurses are stationed as follows:-

Newbiggin;..... 3
North Seaton..... 1

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and Clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre at Jubilee Terrace Newbiggin and at 18, High Double Row, North Seaton Colliery.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the area is now supplied by water from the Tynemouth Corporation Water Department. The water is chlorinated and is of an excellent standard of purity. The supply has been adequate during the year, averaging 24.9 gallons per head per day.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers have functioned satisfactorily during the year. The pipe discharging onto the sands still remains a danger to Public Health, and it is hoped that this will either be discharged below low water mark or incorporated in the new sewerage scheme which will be necessary when a portion of the moor is developed for housing.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The four conveniences in the district, situated at Bridge Street, Prospect Place, Milburn Park and the Centre Promenade, have been well maintained during the year. The erection of new toilets at Prospect Place, advocated last year, is still urgently necessary.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The twice weekly collection of refuse has continued during the year, and no complaints were received. The refuse tips have been regularly inspected and treated for rat infestations.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES.

The standard of hygiene of these premises is very good. During the year three of the multiple grocery stores installed refrigerators.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

Two complaints were received during the year of infestation by bed-bugs. These were minor cases and were treated successfully.

Treatment against cockroaches was carried out in 14 cases.

SCHOOLS.

All the schools and their canteens were inspected during the year. Water supplies, water closets and food preparation premises were found to be in excellent order.

RODENT CONTROL.

The following table gives a summary of the work done:-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.			
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Agricultural.
No. of Properties.	10	3069	301	17
No. of Inspections as a result of:				
Complaints.	-	14	12	-
Survey under the Act.	10	116	98	9
Otherwise.	-	214	127	5
No. of Infestations.	2	24	17	1
No. of Properties treated by L. A.	2	24	17	1

CAMPING SITES.

The caravan site at Newbiggin Moor continues to be maintained in an excellent condition. Water supplies, toilets and washing facilities are adequate and are kept in an excellent state of cleanliness. Each caravan is inspected and approved before being used for letting, and any found defective are removed from the site by the operator.

Inspections were made of the 27 factories in the area. The following tables give the details of the inspections made during the year and the defects found:-

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	12	14	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	11	22	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	4	11	-	-
Total.....	27	47	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	No. of cases in which defects were found		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Referred Found Remedied.	To H.M. By H.M.	
Want of Cleanliness.	3	3	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature.	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation.	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors.	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences.			
(a) Insufficient.	1	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or Defective.	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-
TOTAL.....	4	4	1

SECTION D.

9.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1958.

New Houses completed during the year.

(a) By Local Authority.	22
(b) By other Bodies or Persons.	4

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	Nil.
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.	Nil.
3. Houses closed, not demolished.	Nil.
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	Nil.

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts.

1. By informal action.	27
2. By owners, following statutory notice.	Nil.
3. By Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil.
4. Demolition orders revoked after reconstruction.	Nil.
5. Houses in Clearance Areas patched for temporary accommodation.	Nil.

Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949.

No. of separate houses.

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority.	20
2. Applications rejected.	Nil.
3. Applications approved.	20
4. Approximate average grant approved per house.	£110-14-0
5. Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme.	235

Local Authority Houses.

1. Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority.	1135.
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10.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT. Year ending 31st December, 1958.

	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye- Laws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
<u>HOUSING.</u>						
Structural Defects.	27	21	26	-	-	-
Defective Food Store.	3	3	3	-	-	-
Dampness.	18	18	18	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>WATER SUPPLY.</u>						
Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unsatisfactory.	19	19	19	-	-	-
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>						
Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defective.	23	23	23	-	-	-
<u>SANITARY CONVENiences.</u>						
Insufficient.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defective.	14	14	14	-	-	-
<u>GENERAL.</u>						
Food Premises.	9	9	9	-	-	-
Dairies,	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouses.	1	1	1	-	-	-
Tents, Vans etc.,	17	5	17	-	-	-
Offensive Trades.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Factories and Workplaces.	4	4	4	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insanitary Ashpits & Bins.	51	51	51	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smoke Nuisances.	2	2	1	-	-	-
TOTAL.....	188	170	186	-	-	-

The following table gives a summary of the work affected.

	By Informal Action.	By Statutory Notices.	TOTAL.
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>			
Privy ash pits and privies abolished or repaired.	-	-	-
Pail closets abolished.	3	-	3
Water closets provided.	5	-	5
Sanitary bins renewed	46	-	46
<u>Drainage.</u>			
New drains constructed.	25	-	25
Drains repaired and reconstructed.	14	-	14
Additional gullies provided.	11	-	11
Old gullies replaced.	3	-	3
Scullery sinks provided.	-	-	-
Scullery waste pipes trapped.	2	-	2
Yards repaired or reconstructed.	11	-	11

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Registered Dairies.	1
Number of Registered Distributors.	19

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughtering is carried out at two abattoirs. The total animals killed during the year was as follows:-

Bovines - 748 Calves - 23 Sheep & Lambs - 1924 Pigs - 423.

Condemnations during the year were: 4 bovine lungs, and bovine head and tongue for tuberculosis, 3 pig plucks for pneumonia, and 7 bovine livers for cirrhosis.

OTHER FOODS.

The following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption:-

Canned goods (including meat, fish, milk, fruit and vegetables)

278 tins.

Sausage and Bacon - 63 lbs.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board, at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Age unknown.	Under 1 year.	1 - 2 years.	3 - 4 years.	5 - 9 years.	10 - 14 years.	15 - 24 years.	25 - 34 years.	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years and over.	TOTAL.
Dysentery.	-	4	11	13	17	3	7	7	2	-	1	-	-	65
Measles.	-	3	4	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Whooping Cough.	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever.	-	1	3	3	12	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
 TOTAL.....		-	7	19	20	32	4	10	7	2	-	1	-	102

Sonne Dysentery.

From the above table it will be seen that this was the only notifiable infectious disease prevalent during 1958. There were in fact, two outbreaks of Dysentery during the year. The first began early in January and lasted until the end of February. During this time 23 cases were notified, 21 of which were confirmed bacteriologically, and 4 carriers were discovered. Multiple cases occurred in 5 households, there being 6 cases and two carriers in one house, and 4 cases and 1 carrier in three others. Seventeen of the cases were 5 years of age or younger, one was aged 6 years, one 7 years and one 12 years.

The outbreak was largely confined to the Summerhouse Lane Area.

The second outbreak began at the end of September with the notification of 3 cases which were confirmed bacteriologically. These were followed by a stream of notifications which continued until the end of the year, by which time there had been 101 notifications, but of these only 40 were confirmed bacteriologically. It soon became evident that this epidemic was not following the usual pattern of a Dysentery epidemic. The affected persons were of all ages and both sexes and lived in all parts of the district. No particular school was involved and indeed, of those notified 39 were under school age and 36 were adults, while only 26 were school children. The very high proportion of cases in which Sh. Sonnei was not found pointed to the existence of some other infection and it seemed likely that this was being spread by droplet infection.

The disease was characterised by acute abdominal pain followed by diarrhoea with a very watery stool. In many cases this was associated with nausea or vomiting, fever, headache, sore throat and cough.

It was decided, therefore, to consult the virologist at the Public Health Laboratory who expressed great interest and agreed to carry out an investigation, to discover if the presence of a virus infection could be proved. In all, 31 stools were examined in this connection and Adenovirus Type 7 was isolated from 7 of them. These specimens were not frozen during transport and it would seem reasonable to suppose that the virus might have been found in more cases if freezing had been carried out.

This epidemic appears, therefore, to have been due to an adenovirus associated in some cases with a concurrent Sh. Sonnei infection.

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease has not been seen in Newbiggin since 1950 and has caused no deaths during the past 11 years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year, 165 pre-school children completed a course of primary immunisation and 144 children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1958, it was estimated that the immunity indices in the different age groups were as follows:-

Children under 1 year.....	31%
Children aged 1 - 4 years.....	89.13%
Children aged 5 - 14 years.....	83. 2%
All children under 15 years.....	81.75%

These figures are very satisfactory. Some anxiety is felt however, that the index for school children may fall, owing to the great expansion of the anti-poliomyelitis vaccination programme which has involved so much time and work that it has been impossible to visit the schools to give re-inforcing injections against Diphtheria.

The very high percentage of children being immunised below the age of 5 years is somewhat reassuring.

ANTI-POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

This programme which began in 1956 and really got under way in 1957, expanded enormously in 1958 with the extension of the scheme to additional age-groups, the growing confidence of parents in the safety of the procedure and the introduction of a 3rd injection.

Separate figures are not available for the Newbiggin district but figures for the whole of the Central Area of the County may be of interest.

Between 1st December, 1956 and 31st December, 1957 3,300 children completed the primary course of two injections but in 1958, 8,186 persons in all groups completed the primary course and 3,407 children received a 3rd injection.

TUBERCULOSIS.NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1958.

Age Groups.	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
	Resp.		Non-resp.		TOTAL.	M.	F.	Resp.		Non-resp.		TOTAL.
	M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.....	1	2	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Four new cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1958. 3 were respiratory cases and 1 non-respiratory. No death has been attributed to this disease since 1955.

Case Rate of notified Tuberculosis.	0.398 per 1,000 (0.398)
Case Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis.	0.299 per 1,000 (0.298)
Case Rate of non-respiratory Tuberculosis.	0.0995 per 1,000 (0.0995)
Death Rate from Tuberculosis.	NIL.

(the figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1957)

Death Rate in England and Wales in 1958. 0.10 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1958.

The following table shows the deaths, in age groups, resulting from Malignant Neoplasms of different sites.

SITE.	MALES.					FEMALES.					TOTAL.
	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over.	TOTAL.	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	
Brain.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tongue.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lung and Bronchus.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Breast.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scapula.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stomach.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Liver.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Colon.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Uterus.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cervix.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rectum.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Penis.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Haematopoietic Tissues.	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Unknown.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Thyroid.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL.....	- 4	3	3	3	13	1	3	3	2	2	11

In 1958 the number of males dying from this cause was 13 and the number of females was 11. The corresponding figures for 1957 were 11 males and 11 females.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF LUNG AND BRONCHUS.

Death Rate in Newbiggin.	0.299 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	0.439 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF ALL OTHER SITES.

Death Rate in Newbiggin.	2.09 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	1.685 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF ALL SITES.

Total Death Rate in Newbiggin.	2.389 per 1,000
Total Death Rate in England and Wales.	2.124 per 1,000

